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A Biographical Study of Herod Antipas

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Herod Antipas

CHRONOLOGICAL SUMMARY

- I. Herod Antipas and John, the messenger of God
 - A. Herod (at first) believed John — “For Herod feared John, knowing that he was a just man and an holy, and observed him; and when he heard him, he did many things, and heard him gladly” (Mark 6:20).
 - B. Herod (later) bound John — “For Herod himself had sent forth and laid hold upon John, and bound him in prison for Herodias' sake, his brother Philip's wife: for he had married her. For John had said unto Herod, It is not lawful for thee to have thy brother's wife. Therefore Herodias had a quarrel against him, and would have killed him; but she could not” (Mark 6:17-19).
 - C. Herod (finally) beheaded John.
 1. The supper — “But when Herod's birthday was kept, the daughter of Herodias danced before them, and pleased Herod” (Matt. 14:6).
 2. The subtlety — “Whereupon he promised with an oath to give her whatsoever she would ask” (Matt. 14:7).
 3. The spite — “And she, being before instructed of her mother, said, Give me here John Baptist's head in a charger” (Matt. 14:8).
 4. The sorrow — “And the king was sorry: nevertheless for the oath's sake, and them which sat with him at meat, he commanded it to be given her” (Matt. 14:9).
 5. The slaughter — “And he sent, and beheaded John in the prison. And his head was brought in a charger, and given to the damsel: and she brought it to her mother” (Matt. 14:10-11).
- II. Herod Antipas and Jesus, the Messiah of God
 - A. The craftiness of Herod — Jesus himself referred to this characteristic of Herod. “The same day there came certain of the Pharisees, saying unto him, Get thee out, and depart hence: for Herod will kill thee. And he said unto the, Go ye, and tell that fox, Behold I cast out devils, and I do cures to day and to morrow, and the third day I shall be perfected” (Luke 13:31-32).
 - B. The confusion of Herod — “At that time Herod the tetrarch heard of the fame of Jesus” (Matt. 14:1). “And King Herod heard of him; (for his name was spread abroad:) and he said, That John the Baptist was risen from the dead, and therefore mighty works do shew forth themselves in him. Others said, that it is Elias. And others said, That it is a prophet, or as one of the prophets. But when Herod heard thereof, he said, It is John, whom I beheaded: he is risen from the dead” (Mark 6:14-16).
 - C. The curiosity of Herod — “And as soon as he knew that he belonged unto Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod, who himself also was at Jerusalem at that time.

And when Herod saw Jesus, he was exceedingly glad: for he was desirous to see him of a long season, because he had heard many things of him; and he hoped to have seen some miracle done by him. Then he questioned with him in many words; but he answered him nothing" (Luke 23:7-9).

- D. The contempt of Herod—"And the chief priests and scribes stood and vehemently accused him. And Herod with his men of war set him at nought, and mocked him, and arrayed him in a gorgeous robe, and sent him again to Pilate" (Luke 23:10-11).
- E. The conciliation of Herod—"And the same day Pilate and Herod were made friends together: for before they were at enmity between themselves" (Luke 23:12).

STATISTICS

Father: Herod the Great

Spouse: Herodias

Brother: Philip

First mention: Matthew 14:1

Final mention: Acts 13:1

Meaning of his name: "Seed of a hero"

Frequency of his name: Referred to 27 times

Biblical books mentioning him: Four books (Matthew, Mark, Luke, Acts)

Occupation: King over Galilee

Important fact about his life: He ordered the beheading of John the Baptist